



A publication of the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System

7/31/06

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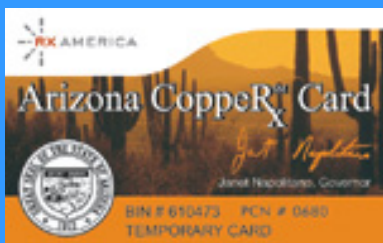
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## Update on new law requiring U.S. Citizens to document citizenship and identity for AHCCCS

### Interim Final Regulations & Public Comment

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) published Interim Final Regulations on citizen documentation on July 12, 2006. The regulations provide states with final guidance on the types of documentation acceptable under this new Federal law.

New information includes:

- 1) Exemptions for Medicare and SSI-Cash recipients
- 2) Requirement for AHCCCS/DES to view originals or certified copies of documentation
- 3) Limited usage of affidavits

There are 4 ways for the public to submit comments to CMS about the Interim Final Regulations. [Click here](#) to see the announcement that appeared in the Federal Register on July 12th. All comments must be received by CMS no later than 5 p.m. on August 11, 2006.

### AHCCCS' Implementation Progress



Featured Community  
Link:



On July 1, 2006, AHCCCS implemented the new additional citizenship requirements for U.S. Citizens. AHCCCS is assisting members on a case-by-case basis, specifically those members having difficulty locating documentation of U.S. Citizenship and identity. AHCCCS' goal is to continue to provide health insurance to all eligible Arizonans and assist them with the new additional requirements.

**AHCCCS members should not lose health insurance coverage as a result of this new law, as long as they show a good-faith effort to provide the required citizenship and identity documentation. AHCCCS and DES will also assist first-time applicants claiming U.S. citizenship with the new requirements.**

### Refresher on Additional Requirements for U.S. Citizens

Effective July 1, 2006, Public Law No. 109-171 Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) of 2005 Section 6036 requires individuals to provide satisfactory documentary evidence of citizenship or nationality when initially applying for AHCCCS or upon a member's next AHCCCS review.

American citizenship or legal immigration status has always been a requirement for AHCCCS eligibility. Previously, applicants declared status in writing under penalty of perjury. Now, the DRA requires actual documentary evidence before AHCCCS eligibility is approved or reviewed. In many cases, a single document will be enough to establish both citizenship and identity such as a passport. However, if secondary documentation is used, such as a birth certificate, the individual will also need evidence of their identity. Once an applicant/member documents citizenship, it will not be documented again unless later evidence raises a question. To read the Final Regulations, [click here](#).

### Latest Fact Sheet

An updated *Fact Sheet for AHCCCS and KidsCare Families* is available on the AHCCCS website. The fact sheet now includes information since the Final Regulations. We do not anticipate major changes to the fact sheet, only additional information to help the community meet these requirements and qualify for AHCCCS health insurance. A Spanish version will be available soon.

[FACT SHEET FOR AHCCCS & KIDSCARE FAMILIES](#)

### AHCCCS Web Resources

AHCCCS is working to create helpful informational tools for members, providers and the community. Currently, the following links are available on the AHCCCS website.

- [Basic Information about Additional Requirements](#)
- [Provider Resources](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Where to Write for Vital Records](#)
- [Citizenship Requirement Fact Sheet for AHCCCS Families](#) [PDF, 871Kb]

Please [send your feedback](#) about the additional citizenship and identity requirements. AHCCCS will attempt to answer your questions and/or use the information provided as we work to create policies and resources. Thank you!

*AHCCCS Pulse* is a web-letter published by AHCCCS Community Relations to inform the community about AHCCCS programs, partnerships, policy changes, and other data related to the AHCCCS mission: *Reaching across Arizona to provide comprehensive, quality health care to those in need.*

To subscribe or change your status on the AHCCCS mailing list, email [community@azahcccs.gov](mailto:community@azahcccs.gov).

Visit AHCCCS on the Web: <http://www.azahcccs.gov>

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